

09 NO BARRIERS

KEY TEXT: ACTS 8:26-39

CENTRAL truth

In this week's Scripture passage, the Lord leads a disciple named Philip to share the gospel with an unlikely person: an Ethiopian official. Through their interaction, we see the central truth of this passage and a core theme in the book of Acts: **all who repent and trust Jesus are welcomed into God's family.**

key question

What should challenge us about Phillip's ministry to the Ethiopian official?

The Lord sent Philip to meet the Ethiopian official on his way to Jerusalem, even though the two seemingly had very little in common. The Lord could have sent anyone, but He chose Philip! Every day we are surrounded by people who don't look, think, or act like us. God wants to make the good news known to them through us.

keep in mind

- This week, we're introduced to the Ethiopian eunuch of Acts 8. Many students may be unfamiliar with what the word "eunuch" means (in general, it refers to a man who has been castrated). Using this week's **History Note**, broach the topic with clarity and compassion. This may be an awkward or uncomfortable conversation, but having this definition in mind will aid students in understanding the passage.
- Philip was able to help the Ethiopian official make a connection between the prophecies in the book of Isaiah and Jesus, the long-awaited "suffering servant." Highlight the importance of knowing and understanding Scripture. We learn about the living Word through His written Word. Come ready with any practical insights for students to engage with Scripture on their own.

application

Why is it important for us to see God's family as a place where all people belong?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Encourage students to ask the Lord for opportunities to build relationships with others that may not act, think, or look like them. God desires to make the gospel known to others through them.

FOR THE LEADER: Was there someone in your own story who introduced you to the gospel, as Philip did with the Ethiopian official? Thank the Lord for this person as you lead this week. Prayerfully ask the Spirit to help you challenge students to share and show the gospel in their spheres of influence.

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